

I

Fredrick Kuhni was born Nov. 27, 1897 in Langnau, Berne County, Switzerland. Fourth child of Ulrich and Louisa Mossaman Kuhni. His father was born Sept, 14 1863 at Trub, Berne Co. Switzerland. He was a mail carrier. His mother was born Mar. 19, 1861 in Laupersnal, Berne Switz. She was a dressmaker.

Fred remembers very little of his home in Switz. He attended school two years and does recall the long walk to and from the school house. All children were under the supervision of the school, from the time they left home until they returned. Rules were very rigidly enforced and children were very strictly disciplined. Father Kuhni belonged to no religious group, but his mother had been a member of the Baptist church since she was quite young.

In 1898 two young Mormon missionaries held a meeting in Langnau, and a friend urged his mother to attend. After hearing the message the earnest young men gave them, she knew this was what wanted. She hoped her husband would too, but he was not so easily converted. He had been a cigar smoker many years and would not join until he could keep the Word of Wisdom, which the young men had introduced to them. Both missionaries were from Midway, Utah. Elder Gottlieb Buhler and Elder Gottlieb Kohler. It was the latter who really converted them. Mother Kuhni was baptized Feb. 11, 1900. Both parents began saving for their immigration to a new home. It took much sacrifice on the part of all the members of the little family to save 2100 Francs for their passage. Each person was allowed 150 pounds weight. This required leaving many of the nicer things behind. Just the bare necessities were brought.

In Switz., from the time a boy reaches the age of nineteen^{he} is automatically in the service of his country. A uniform and a gun are issued to him. He must keep them in perfect condition at all times. Once a year he spends 18 days in camp. Your government knows where you are at all times. Upon moving to another town, a registration is immediately required.

The small family left their home on Mar. 29, 1906. Father Kuhni had been baptized on Nov. 19, 1905. Many of their friends were bitter against this new religion, and assured them it was a bad mistake.

Fred remembers the long train ride through France. They embarked at La Harve and then on to South Hampton. They boarded the ship Philadelphia at 3:30 in the afternoon. They were steerage passengers. The voyage took seven days. Even though only eight years old he remembers being real sick, along with his mother and the other children. The only one not ill was his Grandmother Mossman, who kept nipping at a bottle of wine she had brought with her. and the music came from an old player piano. It was long before sound, which came around 1929. By this time he was operating at the Ideal Theater in Heber. . For Mr. Andrew Murdock. This position he is still holding (1975)

W. CENTER	Street	E
VACANT LOT	WASATCH WAVE	ALICE TELEPHONE BANK
	HOME	Jos. NATCH. HOME

II

She had lost her husband several years before, but had never joined the church.

He recalls very little of the trip across country, but does remember sleeping all night on a bench in the Provo Depot, having missed the Heber "Creeper".

The next day they were met in Charleston by Emil Kohler, a son of the missionary who had converted them.

Their first home was a small three roomed house, (owned by Rone Blood) at the foot of creek hill. Eight of them lived in this small place untill Aug. 1907 when his father purchased the house on main and river road, where the parents resided the rest of their lives.

When school started in Sept. Fred entered the third grade. Learning was difficult at first, because of the language barrier, but children learn quickly and they were soon speaking the new language quite well, along with a few words the teacher did not teach. When at home, their native tongue was spoken when conversing with the parents. Father Kuhni learned the language more quickly than did the Mother.

When he was twelve years old he went to live with the August Kohler family through the summer months. Doing chores, milking cows, cleaning barns and working in the hay field. He was a happy lad when it was time to go to school again so he could go home. They paid no wages, only free room and board. Bro. Ernest was living in Charleston with the Bishop John Richie family and Paul was with the Wilford Wrights.

The parents were very religious. So going to church was part of the family life. Fred was Sect. and Tres. of the Sunday School for many years. He was presented with a book for perfect attendance. Going fishing was part of growing up, he loved the sport. People have often said he could catch fish where there were none. For this reason he had more than one trouncing. Going to the river instead of doing his work.

When he finished the eighth grade, He went to Salt Lake to work in the greenhouse on temple square. It was situated just north of the tabernacle. He made his home with a swiss family by the name of Victor Buchie. Friends of the family.

In 1913 he went with his brother Ernest and some other boys from Midway to the Grande Ranch in Nevada. It was operated by Tom Bonner of Midway. The wages were much better than the ones in Salt Lake. The ranch was several miles from a town, so the boys were able to save up their wages. He was only 15, much younger than the rest of the fellows. Therefore he was kidded a lot. The supply wagon only came in periodically. Once he was waiting for a new pair of overalls. The ones

111

he was wearing had been torn in a place or two. Every time Bill Kennah passed him he would tear it a little more, so the guys gave him the name of Trampoo. It stuck with him all the time they were together. When the job was finished he had saved 200 dollars to bring home.

He was not home long before he procured work with Mr. Orrack up at the Snake Creek power plant. He worked swing shift between this plant and the Murdock Plant which was about one half mile east of Hailstone, on the road to Kamas. This property was situated on a little knoll on the left hand side of the highway. There were several small white frame cottages for the foreman and the operators. It seemed a shame when the plant was closed and the neat little homes moved away. He rode a small sorrel mare named June, along the river road to and from the shifts. Mr. Orrack was a hard man to please and quite disagreeable so Fred was happy when his brother Paul got him a job on the Cutler Dam, being built on the Bear river. It was called the Wheelon Plant. When the demand for power decreased, the men were laid off. So they came home.

Otto, the younger brother was at this time, working in Salt Lake as bellhop and elevator boy in the Semloh Hotel. He was going to quit and go to school. So Fred took his job. This was an entirely new experience. The hotel was situated on the north east corner of State street and 1st So. It was a three story building, with a night club called the Louvre in the basement. The boys were not allowed in the club, but they used to sneak down and see what was going on. The manager was a Mr. Newbold. He was a real nice man to work for. The club, however, was finally closed, it became so rough.

World War One had just been declared. Both Ernest and Paul had been inducted. Both served overseas. Fred's call came, but luckily the armistice was signed before he left.

In 1922 he came home and went to work at the newly developed Park Utah mine. It was about two miles up the canyon, west of Keetly. It has, since then, changed hands and names many times.

His desire for more knowledge, prompted him to take a correspondence course in electronics. All his free time was spent studying. He completed the course and was issued a diploma. It afforded him a great deal of help, in his future career.

In the evenings he operated the projection machine, at the Midway picture show. The building adjoined Guy Colmans store, on the west. These were the old silent films, where the dialogue was read across the bottom of the picture, and the music came from an old player piano. It was long before sound, which came around 1929. By this time he was operating at the Ideal Theater in Heber. For Mr. Andrew Murdock. This position he is still holding (1975)

Mr. Murdock has long since died and both his boys have, Ben and Ellis, have been Freds employers.

His first work at the mine was mostly odd jobs. But his knowledge and experience with electricity afforded him the opportunity to enter this department.

In 1924 a rich vein of ore had been discovered, and preparations for a massive development was underway. There were four large bunk houses, a boarding house and dining room, and a commissary, run by Tommy Lenzi, or Kike, as he was called. The electrical department was making preparations to run power into the mine. Up until now all the light under ground was supplied by carbide lights on the mens hats or the horses heads. Horses were used to haul the ore to the portal. Some of the horses never saw the light of day for years. The hay and grain was hauled into them. They had their own corrals. When the power was finally installed, there was no future use for the horses. so they were blindfolded and brought out. Each day a little more of the eye covering was removed, until their eyes became accustomed to the light. Otherwise, they would have been blind. After the ore reached the portal it was loaded on wagons or sleighs and hauled to the depot in Heber. Winter snows were real heavy. Most of the valley men stayed up at the boarding house. They used to have what they called Smokers.; an evening of entertainment. Each week it would be something different. Boxing, wrestling, picture shows or a dance. Some of the professionals were; Ira Dern, Mike Mazurki and Herman Hackensmidt. In those days wrestling was an art, and these events really gathered the crowds. The event was rightly named, for the room was blue with smoke. The company purchased a couple of little Devrie projectors, and once a week Fred would get a film from Park City and run a movie. Mostly westerns with Hoot Gibson, Richard Dix or Wm S. Hart.

Around 1925 there was a night club called the Blue Goose built on the north side of the road, about two blocks west of fishers Ranch. (now Keetly). At first there were some pretty successful dances held here. But as time went on it became real rough, and was finally closed down. Later burned.

In the fall of 1923, Fred and a couple of friends, from Midway, came to Heber to see an airoplane that had lit in the north fields. It was a rarity to the valley. On the way home they picked up three girls from Heber and gave them a ride home. He asked Orel for a date. From then on they kept steady company. It was a heavy winter and he lived most of it at the mine. They corresponded by letter and phone, She was an operator at the Telephone Company in Heber. In the spring of 1925 he purchased his first car. a black Dodge sedan. New Cost around 800.00 dollars. Prior to this he had paid his way too and from work with other miners.

He was made an Elder in May at confrence in the old Tabernacle.

V

He married Orel May Carlile June 17, 1925. in the salt lake temple. By - Geo. F. Richards
They had a short honeymoon in the city, going to Salt Air, Lagoon and Movies. Staying at the Wilson Hotel on second south. A family reception was held at the Carlile home when they returned.

The mine was well under way to being completely electrified by this time Fred having a major part in the operation. It was under the direction of Frank Hide, chief electrician. From then on his job was maintenance throughout the mine, and work on the four large locomotives that transported the ore from under ground to the portal, where it was loaded on a train of cars that made a trip daily to Park City.

Fred became a very proud father on the 10, of July, 1929. when his daughter Venile was born. She was always quite a joy to him. She would often meet him on payday as he cashed his check, and come home with a new pair of shoes, blouse or sweater. He rarely refused her anything.

Fred was badly burned, almost lost his life, while stretching a power line up over the mountains, from the mine to the old haukey shaft. A detailed account of the accident was entered in Orel's history or also the book containing the interview with Craig Fuller. It happened when the wire they were stretching came in contact with a 11,000 volt line. He was taken to the Park City hospital, by team on a flat wagon. He spent one week here then was transferred to the Holy Cross. Under the care of Dr. Ralph Penndelton Fred was a religious man, and a firm believer in prayer. He was given many wonderful blessings by the Elders who came to the hospital. It was only the skill of his DR. and the faith of the family that he recovered. During this time, The state compensation law paid a percentage of the wages about \$4.00 a week. Then at the completion of the hearing the Fidelity and casualty Ins. Paid a settlement of \$2000.00. With this money their home was built \$200.00 for the lot and \$1800.00 for the house complete to move in. (good old days.) 1934

Fred continued to work for the Park Utah, altho the company management changed many times. Gradually as time went on his hips began to give him some distress. the Drs. agreed much of the trouble was a result of the electric shock. For quiet a while he went to work with the aid of a crutch, at the request of his boss Bob Hyde. working only in the shop.

In 1961 getting around was becoming difficult, and he was forced to quit. By this time he was chief electrician His wages were \$17.50 a day. Good wages He had seen many changes and great improvements in mining in the 38 years of service. At this time there was no retirement plan, It went into effect a few years later.

VI

Fred was still operating as projectionist at the Ideal Theatre. Ellis fern Murdock were owners and managers. The theatre was purchased later by Kent and Billy Hyatt. He went on working until ¹⁹⁷⁵ 1975 when it finally became to difficult to climb the stairs to the projection room. Kent kiddingly said " we'll put in a lift". Through the years , he had also seen many changes in the movie business . From the old hand crank machine , that had to be cranked exactly 60 turns to the minute (which he mechanized by adapting an old washing machine motor to turn the crank shaft.) to silent power operated, and then to sound and color. (around 1929) recently, machines that need no projectionist. All automatic. When asked what he thought of ^{movies} today's he said. " The type of shows they have today---personally, I dont think much of them. People still like Walt Disney, and a good love story with good actors. And I think they'll come back".

When he retired the Wasatch Wave printed a very complimentary article on his 50 years as a projectionist. Fred was always a loyal, dependable, trustworthy employee, Was always well liked by his fellow workers and employers. He was always ^{thorough} in his work. Never left any thing wait for tomorrow that should be done today. Fred was a very good husband, a good provider and an exceptional father. Even though he walked on a walker for many months, He always kept a nice looking yard, with well trimmed walks and hedge. In Apr, '83 he underwent prostate surgery at the Heber Hosp. Remained 4 weeks Improved so well , spent the 24 of July with the children in granger. Suffered a light stroke in early Aug. went back to the hospital . Under care of Dr . Jack D. Boggess. (Long time family physician) In the 4 weeks following, lost his speech, unable to open one eye, and totally lost ability to walk. On morning of Sept. 3rd he motioned to Ve Nile that he wanted to shave. Even smiled as she tried to help him. Fred passed away that eve at 8:55

3-
1983